

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application in light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. Following the Examiner's suggestion, Applicant has amended the title, although in a somewhat shorter version for brevity. In the office action (OA) mailed 05/17/2005, claim 1 was pending and was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,399,806 to Olson ("Olson"). FIG. 4C of Applicant's specification is reproduced below in order to demonstrate the claimed method patentably distinguishes Olson.

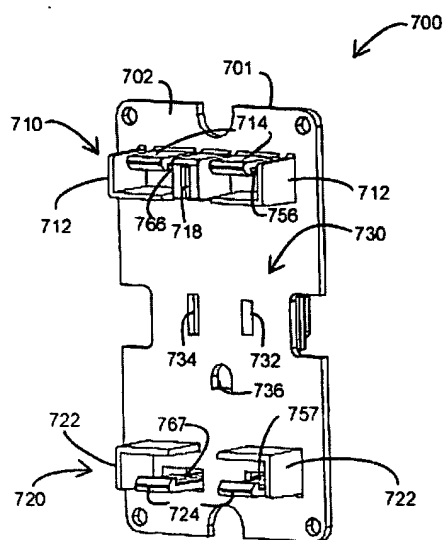


FIG. 7A

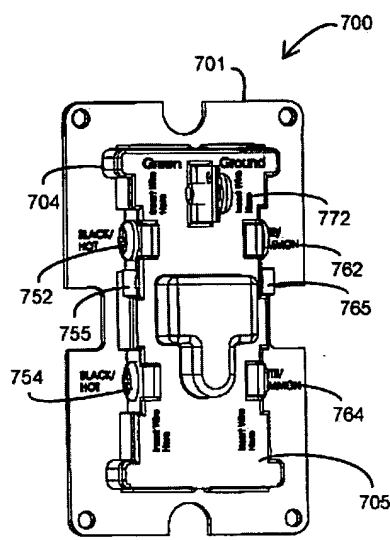


FIG. 7B

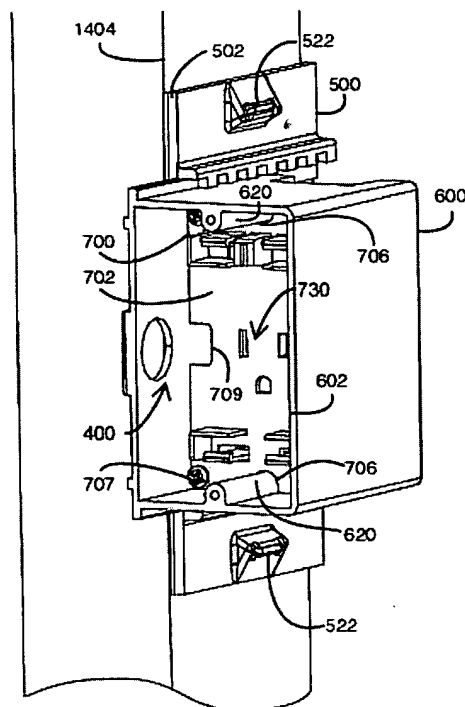


FIG. 14A

Claim 1 recites, in part, an electrical wiring method comprising the steps of:

installing an electrical box 600 within a wall panel;

mounting a wiring panel 700 within said electrical box so as to partition the interior of said electrical box into a user inaccessible wiring compartment and a user accessible module compartment 400;

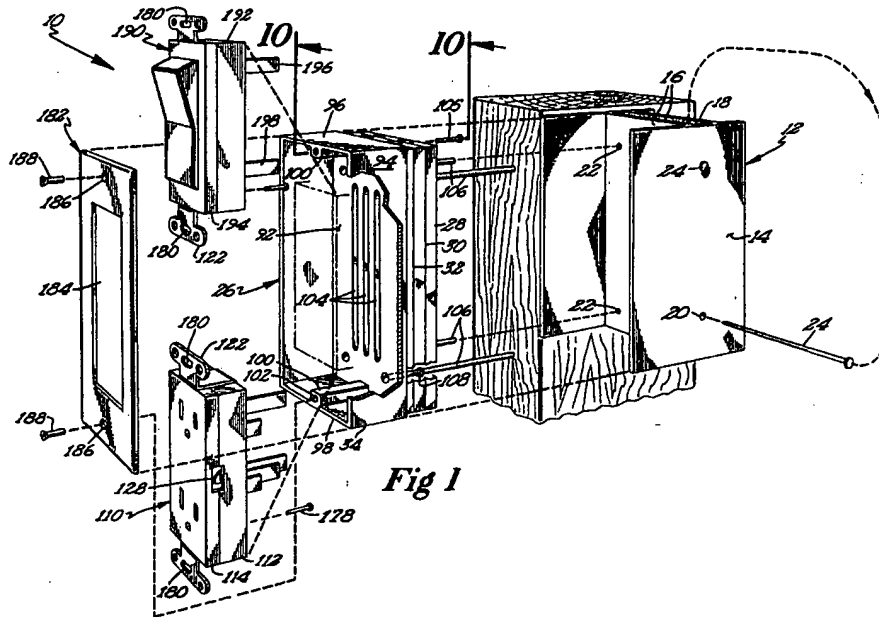
routing a power cable into said electrical box;

wiring said power cable to a cable connector 752, 754, 762, 764 of said wiring panel within said wiring compartment;

electrically connecting said cable connector to a panel contact 756, 757, 766, 767 of said wiring panel;

Application, p. 33 (reference numerals added).

Fig. 1 from Olson is reproduced below for reference.



I. An electrical box element of Olson corresponding to the claimed electrical wiring method is not unambiguously identified.

The OA is silent as to which element or elements of Olson constitute an electrical box as cited in several claimed method steps. With respect to the "installing" step, the OA cites Fig. 1, 12. OA p. 2, last sentence. Olson, however, describes item 12 as a "base." In particular, Olson states:

Generally, system 10 . . . includes an adjustable nailer, hanger, or base 12. . . . System 10 further includes first and second nails 24 . . . for securing base 12 to the stud or framing member . . .

Olson, col. 3, ll. 37-59. Thus, the OA is apparently not asserting that the base 12 is an electrical box as claimed, but is merely referencing an installation aspect of Olson. In particular, Olson states that "[f]our adjustment screws 106 rotatably extend through boxes 28, 30, 32, and 34 . . . for threadable receipt in adjustable holes 22 of base 12." Olson col. 5, ll. 56-59. This confirms that base 12 is for installing those boxes to a wall stud. Nowhere else, however, does the OA hint at what aspect of Olson reads on the claimed electrical box.

The OA does clearly assert that the claimed "wiring panel" corresponds to Olson boxes 28, 30 and 32. OA p. 3, first sentence (referring to the claimed "mounting" step).

Hence, these boxes cannot be asserted as corresponding, in whole or in part, to the claimed "electrical box." MPEP §2131 (The elements must be arranged as required by the claim).

The OA also clearly asserts that the claimed "user accessible module compartment" corresponds to the Olson receptacle box 34. OA p. 3, first sentence, i.e. "a user accessible module compartment or receptacle box area (Fig. 1, 34)." Because the claimed "user accessible module compartment" is "interior of said electrical box," by implication the OA is asserting that the Olson receptacle box 34 corresponds to the claimed "electrical box." This is consistent with Olson's description of box 34 as "a housing or receptacle box 34 for receipt of an electrical device." Olson col. 4, ll. 7-8. As such, Olson does not anticipate claim 1, as detailed below.

II. Olson does not disclose an electrical box and wiring panel as recited in the claimed method.

Claim 1 recites mounting a wiring panel 700 within said electrical box. As shown and described by Olson, however, boxes 28, 30, 32 (asserted to be a wiring panel) are not mounted within the receptacle box 34. In particular, Olson describes, and Fig. 1 shows, that boxes 28, 30, 32 are mounted external to receptacle box 34:

[P]ush pins 105 extend through apertures 44 of boxes 28, 30 and 32 and into aperture 102 of box 34 for holding boxes 28, 30, 32, and 34 together with . . . the front face of box 32 abutting with the back face of box 34.

Olson col. 5, ll. 50 -56, emphasis added. That is, the OA suggested method of using the Olson boxes 28, 30, 32 does not read on the claimed method of using the wiring panel. For this reason alone, Olson does not anticipate claim 1. Likewise, because boxes 28, 30, 32 are exterior to the receptacle box 34, the Olson boxes 28, 30, 32 cannot partition the interior of the Olson receptacle box 34 into a user inaccessible wiring compartment and a user accessible module compartment as claimed. For this additional reason, Olson does not anticipate claim 1.

Also, claim 1 recites routing a power cable into said electrical box. In contrast, a power cable is routed directly into the Olson boxes 28, 30, 32, completely outside of the Olson receptacle box 34. Specifically, Olson states with respect to Fig. 3 that "Boxes 28, 30, and 32 include four openings 46 of a size for slideable receipt of a stripped electrical

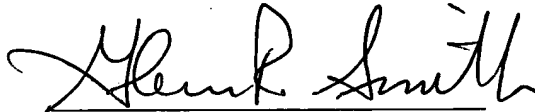
wire of a power distribution cable . . ." Olson col. 4, ll. 27-30. Thus, a power cable is not routed into the Olson receptacle box 34 as claimed. On this further basis, Olson does not anticipate claim 1.

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that Olson does not anticipate claim 1 and that claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Applicant requests that this application be passed to issuance. If, however, the Examiner believes that any issue remains that requires clarification, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney of record at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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